

CLAIMS

1. A 5-aminolevulinic acid salt which is an aminolevulinic acid salt wherein the salt is at least one salt selected from the group consisting of phosphate, nitrate and sulfonate.

2. The 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 1, which is an aminolevulinic acid phosphate represented by the following formula (I):



wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, alkyl having from 1 to 18 carbon atoms, alkenyl having from 2 to 18 carbon atoms, aralkyl having from 7 to 26 carbon atoms or phenyl; and n is an integer of from 0 to 2; and wherein when n is 2, the plural number of R^1 are the same or different.

3. The 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 2, wherein R^1 is a hydrogen atom, methyl, ethyl, *n*-butyl, hexadecyl, 2-ethylhexyl, oleyl, benzyl or phenyl.

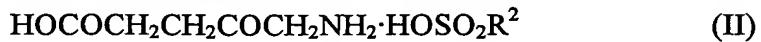
4. The 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 2 or 3, which is in the form of an aqueous solution.

5. The 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 2 or 3, which is in the form of a solid.

6. The 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 1, which is a 5-aminolevulinic acid nitrate.

7. The 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 6, which is a solid.

8. The 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 1, which is a 5-aminolevulinic acid sulfonate represented by the following formula (II):



wherein R^2 represents phenyl substituted with lower alkyl.

9. The 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 8, wherein the substituted phenyl is 4-methylphenyl, 2,4-dimethylphenyl or 2,5-dimethylphenyl.

10. The 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 8 or 9, which is in the form of an aqueous solution.

11. The 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 8 or 9, which is in the form of a solid.

12. A process for producing the 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to any one of claims 2 to 5, which comprises eluting 5-aminolevulinic acid adsorbed on a cation exchange resin, and mixing the eluate with phosphoric acid.

13. The process according to claim 12, wherein the 5-aminolevulinic acid is eluted with aqueous ammonia.

14. A process for producing the 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to claim 6 or 7, which comprises eluting 5-aminolevulinic acid adsorbed on a cation exchange resin, and mixing the eluate with nitric acid.

15. The process according to claim 14, wherein the 5-aminolevulinic acid is eluted with aqueous ammonia.

16. A process for producing the 5-aminolevulinic acid sulfonate according to claim 8 or 9, which comprises eluting 5-aminolevulinic acid adsorbed on a cation exchange resin, and mixing the eluate with sulfonic acid.

17. The process according to claim 16, wherein the 5-aminolevulinic acid is eluted with aqueous ammonia.

18. A composition for photodynamic treatment or photodynamic diagnosis, which comprises the 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to any one of claims 1 to 11.

19. A plant activator composition which comprises the 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to any one of claims 1 to 11.

20. Use of the 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to any one of claims 1 to 11 for the manufacture of an agent for photodynamic treatment or an agent for photodynamic diagnosis.

21. Use of the 5-aminolevulinic acid salt according to any one of claims 1 to 11 as a plant activator.